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ONTARIO NATIAVE AFFAIRS
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1998-1999 Business plan

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ONTARIO NATIVE AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT

1998-1999 Business Plan



Ontario



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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



The government is working with Aboriginal people in Ontario to build strong, prosperous Aboriginal economies and self-reliant First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal communities. Over the past year we have made significant progress toward these goals, guided by the principles and approaches set out in Ontario's Aboriginal Policy Framework.

The Framework's goal is a future where Aboriginal communities have stronger economies, a greater capacity to become more self-reliant and greater responsibility for their well-being. Guided by the Framework, we are working to address Aboriginal matters in a consistent manner that delivers results, promotes economic growth and benefits all Ontarians.

We are working to promote Aboriginal economic development, as part of **Hon. Charles Harnick** our government's approach to promoting a strong Ontario economy, job creation, investment and growth. In developing our approaches, we have listened to more than 500 Aboriginal leaders and business people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations, corporations, financial institutions, the federal government and the public.

We are working to resolve more land claims than ever before. Settling land claims removes barriers to investment, fosters stable relations and creates opportunities for local economies. We remain strongly committed to providing people who live and work in areas affected by claims with opportunities for meaningful public involvement, to ensure that negotiations address their interests and concerns.

We are finalizing a provincial policy on land claim negotiations. The policy will include input from Aboriginal leadership, stakeholders and the broader community.

We will work with our federal and provincial counterparts, and with Aboriginal leaders, to identify where we can cooperate to promote economic development, support job creation and deliver programs and services to Aboriginal people, both on- and off-reserve. The Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat will work with other provincial ministries to ensure a consistent and effective approach on Aboriginal matters, and maintain harmonious relations with First Nations, Métis, off-reserve Aboriginal organizations, other governments and the public.

The government wants to build an Ontario that is prosperous and proud, the heart of a strong and united Canada. Strong, prosperous Aboriginal economies and self-reliant Aboriginal communities will benefit all of us who live and work in this province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Harnick".

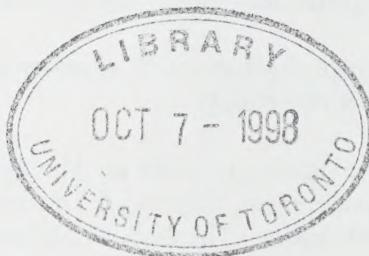
The Honourable Charles Harnick
Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs

VISION

The Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat looks to a future where:

- Aboriginal communities have stronger economies and are more self-reliant.
- Relations between Aboriginal people and their neighbours are prosperous and mutually beneficial.

The Secretariat's vision reflects the goal of Ontario's Aboriginal Policy Framework, announced in March 1996. The Framework sets out Ontario's approach to Aboriginal affairs. It guides the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat in delivering its core businesses, and provides direction for all ministries in addressing Aboriginal matters within their legislative and policy mandates.



ANNUAL REPORT ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

Resolving Land Claims

In 1997-98, provincial negotiators reached a preliminary agreement on the Whitefish Lake flooding claim and signed agreements-in-principle on the Assabaska Shoreline Reserve and Whitefish River claims. Negotiators concluded a framework agreement for the Rainy River land claim negotiations. Negotiation mandates were confirmed for the Algonquin, Garden River, Rainy River, Wauzhushk Onigum, and Whitefish River land claim negotiations.

In February 1998, Minister Harnick appointed Brian Crane, Q.C., as Ontario's new Chief Negotiator on the Algonquin land claim. The Minister and Mr. Crane met with Ottawa Valley municipal leaders in March 1998 as part of the province's commitment to involving municipalities, stakeholders and concerned citizens of the Ottawa Valley in meaningful consultation on issues that affect them.

Since 1991 the province and the Algonquins have signed an annual hunting agreement within the Algonquin land claim negotiations. The 1997-98 Algonquin Hunting Agreement established a management system for a controlled hunt of deer and moose in the land claim area, including measures to ensure public safety and conservation.

In 1997-98, the Secretariat developed proposed policy directions and management measures for land claims negotiations. Consultations with Aboriginal leaders and key stakeholders began in March 1998. Work toward completing the policy will continue in 1998-99.

Over the coming year, the Secretariat will continue to negotiate land claims with a good prospect for settlement. Progress toward agreements on a number of claims will allow claims at the research and review stage to move forward.

The Secretariat will maintain a high level of public involvement in negotiations and provide the public with better information on land claim negotiations. It will continue to implement settlement agreements. It will also participate as required in self-government negotiations between Canada and First Nations, to identify and represent the province's interests.

Promoting Economic Development

In 1997-98, the Secretariat consulted on strategies for promoting Aboriginal economic development, including political round tables with First Nation leaders, Métis and off-reserve Aboriginal organizations during the summer of 1997, and consultation meetings with Aboriginal leaders and corporate sector stakeholders in March 1998.

In cooperation with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Xerox Canada Inc., the federal government and others, the Secretariat sponsored the first annual Aboriginal Economic Renewal Conference. The conference, which took place in Toronto in April 1998, focused on partnership development between Aboriginal businesses and the corporate sector.

Ontario was one of the sponsors of the 1998 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards and the Blueprint For The Future youth career fair held in conjunction with the awards. Toronto was host city for the awards, which celebrate Aboriginal achievers from across Canada.

Over the coming year, the Secretariat will continue to work on approaches to promote Aboriginal economic development. It will work to finalize a policy statement on Ontario's approach to land claim negotiations. Work will continue toward establishing a mechanism for managing and distributing the net revenues from Casino Rama.

Building Good Relations

In 1997-98, the Minister, Parliamentary Assistant and Secretary for Native Affairs met with First Nation leaders and representatives of major Aboriginal organizations such as the Chiefs of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association and the Ontario Native Women's Association. These meetings will continue.

The Secretariat supported Premier Harris in a successful meeting of Premiers, Territorial Leaders and National Aboriginal Leaders in November 1997. In advance of the national meeting, the Premier and Minister Harnick met with Ontario First Nations leaders, and the Minister also met with Métis leaders and representatives of off-reserve Aboriginal organizations.

Over the coming year, the Secretariat will work to formalize, with the Chiefs of Ontario, a process led by the Minister Responsible for Native Affairs for bringing together First Nations leaders with other Ontario ministers to discuss issues of common concern. A proposed Ontario/First Nations framework document addresses access to decision makers at the officials and political levels.

Ontario officials will also work cooperatively with their federal counterparts to deliver programs and services to Aboriginal people, both on- and off-reserve.

Delivering Good Government

In 1997-98, the Secretariat developed guidelines for Aboriginal communities and organizations to ensure that transfer payments have a strong focus on goals, results and accountability.

Secretariat officials participated as required in self-government negotiations between Canada and First Nations, to identify and represent the province's interests. It will continue this approach in 1998-99.

Over the coming year, the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat will continue to work with other provincial ministries to promote a consistent and effective approach on Aboriginal matters. The Secretariat provides advice to guide other Ontario ministries in their dealings with Aboriginal people, and manages relationships with First Nations, Métis and off-reserve Aboriginal organizations, the federal government, stakeholders and the public.

Supporting Community Infrastructure

Through the Canada-Ontario Retrofit Agreement, Ontario is working with the federal government to ensure that remote northern Aboriginal communities have adequate water, sewer and electrical services.

The Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat will continue to provide funding for these projects in 1998-99. By the year 2001, the agreement will have provided indoor plumbing, sewage services and electricity to a total of 35 remote northern communities and created more than 3,000 local jobs.

In 1998-99, the Secretariat will continue to provide funding for capital projects under the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, which is jointly implemented by the province and Aboriginal organizations.

CORE BUSINESSES

The Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat supports the Minister Responsible for Native Affairs.

The Secretariat conducts land claim negotiations on behalf of the province, and implements land claim settlements. It represents Ontario in self-government negotiations between Canada and First Nations as required to address the province's interests.

The Secretariat develops provincial policy and works with other ministries to co-ordinate the province's overall approach to Aboriginal matters. In this role, the Secretariat maintains relations with First Nations, Métis and off-reserve Aboriginal organizations, such as Friendship Centres, the federal government, stakeholders and the public.

KEY STRATEGIES

Negotiations

In 1998-99, the Secretariat will focus on negotiating land claims with a high potential for successful and lasting settlements. It will maintain Ontario's strong commitment to meaningful public involvement in land claim negotiations to ensure the process is open, efficient and accountable, and addresses the rights and interests of those affected by the claim.

The Secretariat will pursue land claim settlements that include economic development opportunities for Aboriginal people, and bring closure and certainty to land and legal issues.

The Secretariat will continue to participate as required in self-government negotiations between Canada and First Nations, to identify and represent the province's interests.

Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Coordination

In 1998-99, the Secretariat will continue to work on approaches to promote Aboriginal economic development. It will finalize a policy statement on Ontario's approach to land claim negotiations.

To promote dialogue, the Secretariat will continue its efforts to formalize a process for regular meetings of Ontario ministers and First Nation leaders. It will also continue to maintain effective working relations with Métis and off-reserve Aboriginal organizations.

The Secretariat will continue to encourage the federal government to fulfill its responsibilities, including fiscal responsibilities for Aboriginal matters, where appropriate.

The Secretariat will carefully manage its spending to ensure all its activities are efficient, support core businesses and priorities, and provide value for money. It will continue to provide core funding to eligible provincial Aboriginal organizations, based on business goals, results and accountability.

The Secretariat will continue to manage existing commitments under the Aboriginal Community Capital Infrastructure Fund. The fund promotes Aboriginal community development through capital projects that address health, safety and infrastructure needs.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

CORE BUSINESS: Negotiations			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
Satisfactory resolution of land claims	Stakeholders informed/involved in issues that may affect them	Stakeholders informed/involved in all active negotiations	Develop additional public information materials; develop communications and public consultation plans for each negotiation
	Negotiation process more effective	Year-over-year improvement in number of claims addressed	Establish annual milestones for progress in negotiations
	Agreements implemented efficiently and effectively	Completion of implementation plans and projects on time, within budget, and according to terms of settlement agreement	Develop all-party plans for implementing settlements; work with partners to reduce timeframes for implementing settlements and ensure timely and cost-effective fulfilment of Ontario's obligations
Represent Ontario's interests in federally-led self-government negotiations	Consistent, well-documented, effective and timely representation of Ontario's interests	Ministry partners satisfied with representation of Ontario's interests	Participate in the active federally-led negotiation and develop best practices for representing provincial interests

1997-98 SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS — INTERIM ACTUALS*

Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat			
Operating		\$10.0 million	
Capital		\$11.3 million	
		50 Staff	
Negotiations			
Operating	\$4.4 million		
Capital	-		
	19 Staff		
Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Coordination			
Operating		\$ 3.6 million	
Capital		\$11.3 million	
		18 Staff	
Core Business Support**			
Operating	\$2.0 million		
Capital	-		
	13 Staff		

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents

* PSAAB based

** Includes legal services, communications, executive services, operations support

1998-99 APPROVED ALLOCATIONS BY CORE BUSINESS – PLAN*

Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat		
Operating	\$ 9.4 million	
Capital	\$12.0 million	
	50 Staff	

Negotiations		
Operating	\$4.7 million	
Capital	–	
	19 Staff	

Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Coordination		
Operating	\$ 3.3 million	
Capital	\$12.0 million	
	18 Staff	

Core Business Support**		
Operating	\$1.4 million	
Capital	–	
	13 Staff	

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents

* PSAAB based

** Includes legal services, communications, executive services, operations support

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the Secretariat's business plan are welcomed.
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